



Liam Fontaine says he and a teen stepped in after Arkwrights dairy owner John Zhao chased the suspect out of the shop.

Picture / Hawke's Bay Today

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Robbery-foiling fairy tickled pink by avalanche of praise

A humble hero wearing a pink fairy costume has been "shocked" at the attention he has received.

There has been an outpouring of praise for the actions of Liam Fontaine, a 23-year-old Napier landscaper, who caught an alleged robber in the act after completing Sunday's Breast Cancer fun walk with his sister and her two daughters.

About 2pm on Sunday Fontaine's family headed to Arkwrights dairy in Napier to get icecream for his nieces. They were leaving the dairy when

a "suspicious looking" man wearing a balaclava walked in.

"I had put my pie and my drink into the car when the store owner chased this man out of the shop," he said.

Fontaine took off after the alleged robber, along with another customer, a 14-year-old boy.

"We both got him on to the ground and pinned him there while my sister was in the dairy... calling the police."

The man put up a bit of a fight, he said, but he and the teenager put him in his place.

"We just told him 'look... the more you fight the worse it's going to be'."

He said police took over when he and his helper managed to flag down an off-duty officer.

Senior Sergeant Kevin Stewart wanted to thank the "fairy hero" for saving the day.

"We want to give our pink fairy hero and his acquaintance a big pat on the back for [stopping the offender] getting away," Stewart said.

Fontaine said he had not expected his actions to receive so much

attention. "It's been pretty full on. My friends think it's pretty crack-up."

He said he hoped some of the attention would go to the teen who helped catch the robber.

The 42-year-old man arrested in relation to the incident entered no plea when he appeared in Hastings District Court yesterday charged with aggravated robbery.

He was granted interim name suppression and remanded in custody until his next appearance in November. — *Hawke's Bay Today*

Firearms charges

A man alleged to have supplied firearms to Quinn Patterson, who shot and killed a Northland rental agent and her daughter, has appeared briefly in the Whangarei District Court. Michael John Hayes appeared yesterday morning for a case review hearing but the Crown asked for a two-week adjournment, which was granted by Judge Pippa Sinclair. Hayes, 61, previously denied three counts of unlawful possession of a military-style semi-automatic weapon (MSSA), three counts of supplying an MSSA to an unlicensed person, and three counts of supplying firearms to an unlicensed person. Wendy Campbell and her daughter, Natanya, were shot at Patterson's Mount Tiger Rd rental home on July 26. Patterson's remains were found in the charred wreck of his home.

Smacking change

New Zealand First's wish to hold a referendum on the anti-smacking law was dropped in coalition talks with Labour, new Minister for Children Tracey Martin says. The referendum was a bottom line for NZ First in the 2014 election. "That was one of the policies that did not survive the negotiations," Martin told RNZ's *Checkpoint*. "So let's move on." She admitted she used to smack her children — "a smack on the leg, a smack on the hand" — when they refused to listen to her, but had not since the 2007 law change.

Search modified

The search has been scaled back for a Pahiatua woman missing for more than two weeks. Canoe and kayak searches on the Mangatainoka River and surrounding land areas had failed to find Elizabeth Udy, also known as Lizzie, who police believed entered the river by the Pahiatua town bridge some time after 3am on Wednesday, October 11.

Hospital row

The Southern District Health Board's public health arm yesterday came out against the Ronald McDonald charity setting up a hospital house in Dunedin. Last week, the Public Health Association caused an outcry when its Otago-Southland branch urged the DHB to shun the suggestion by fast-food giant McDonald's charity arm.

Claims dismissed

A judge has dismissed claims that three intellectually disabled men were subject to inhumane treatment while in care, instead giving a glowing review of their carers. The trio, all charged separately with violent offending, were detained in hospital units in Auckland and Porirua. They sought declarations from the court that their treatment was in breach of the Bill of Rights Act and up to \$325,500 in compensation, Fairfax reported. Their claim, brought before the High Court at Wellington, spans about 13 years. Justice Rebecca Ellis delivered her judgment yesterday.

Trade-secrets theft alleged

Company claims architect who had been on the staff took its intellectual property

Sam Hurley

An Auckland architect has been charged with stealing trade secrets and intellectual property from a firm by allegedly hacking into its computer system.

Michael Christopher Davies, 45, appeared in the Auckland District Court yesterday on five charges.

He faces four counts of accessing Context Architects' server and obtaining files relating to the firm's ArchiCAD template, a computer software program.



Michael Davies

Davies is also accused of taking a model from the firm and a template which contained a trade secret.

The alleged offending is said to have occurred from January to March this year, court documents read.

Davies told the *Herald*: "There had been some allegations made, I refute them, and will defend them in a court of law."

The English-born architect also

confirmed he worked for the Takapuna-based company Design Partners.

The firm's website describes the Ponsonby man as a Design Partners principal with more than 20 years' experience in architecture. He is said to have extensive experience across all sectors of architecture including residential (masterplanning, passive tropical housing, luxury high-end houses), commercial, hospitality, civic and naval architecture.

"He has extensive experience with high-density and mixed-use developments."

Davies also studied and worked as a technician before becoming an architect, the website said.

A statement from Context Architects said Davies was a former member of its staff and accused him of intellectual property theft.

"Despite a robust digital security system, the former staff member was in a senior position where he was able to access our files," the company said.

Context Architects said it had been working with the police's Financial Crimes Group.

Davies will next appear in court on February 14.



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